

Josephine & Percy Childers

"Boy, it was wild the day after that [1948 presidential] election. It really was. Nothing was done, nothing. We had a parade. I couldn't believe it. Well, I believed that the results would be that way, but the rest of the people couldn't believe it. But then they were enthused because Mr. Truman was from Independence. . . . I had \$30 at 15-1 with one of the [pharmacists]. That was \$450. The next day . . . he brought the money in, in cash, and I bought a phonograph-radio combination cabinet in mahogany.

PETEY CHILDERS

## INDEPENDENCE

It is very name reflected important ideas of the new nation—freedom of thought, freedom of religion, a chance to make a future on the frontier.

In 1827, the town founders cleared a tract of Missouri woodlands near an Indian path and several clearwater springs for a new county seat and named the place Independence. The town to the north already had been named Liberty.

For more than 150 years, Independence, Missouri, has been making history. Few towns in the United States of comparable size can claim a history as rich and varied as Independence's.

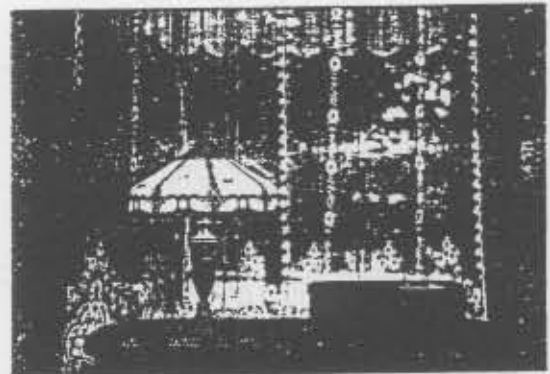
From its town square, thousands of pioneers headed West. A charismatic religious leader designated the city as a spiritual center for Mormonism. During the Civil War, brother fought brother on the city streets. And during World War II, a plain-speaking, hometown boy, Harry Truman, made the peace.

A town, though, is something more than its past. Today the future of the town can be seen in its people, in the farm fields, on the factory lines, in the church pews, at school, at play and in the homes of its residents. Twice the city has been

selected an All-America City by the National Municipal League.

But within that rich history, it was Truman who made the town an indelible part of the nation's conscience. The pundits helped. They made the president's hometown a part of his name—Harry Truman, "The Man from Independence."

Longtime residents, when prompted, can spin endless stories about life in "old Independence"—a small town with electric streetcars, Easter parades, Saturday nights when the farmers came to town for haircuts and nickel movie theaters. Most have a story or two about Harry and Bess Truman, who



*Petey Childers and his wife, Drusilla, have been lifetime Independence residents and spent almost 50 years living on Main Street.*